

**DISC HEAD SLIDER HAVING VERTICALLY CONTOURED FEATURES AND METHOD OF FABRICATING VERTICALLY CONTOURED FEATURES ON A SLIDER**

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**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

A method of contouring a surface of a slider for supporting a transducer relative to a data storage medium includes applying a lithographic resist layer to the slider surface. The resist layer is then exposed through a single mask having a mask pattern defined by variation in an optical density through the mask. The 10 resist layer is exposed in an exposure pattern corresponding to the mask pattern. Portions of the resist layer are removed as a function of the exposure pattern to produce a vertically contoured resist layer. The slider surface is etched through the vertically contoured resist layer during a single etching step to form a vertically contoured surface feature within the slider surface.